

FOR JN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
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6 December 1982
MPA #0034

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- November 1982

I. GENERAL

Newly arrived U.S. Ambassador Everett S. Briggs, and DCM Bill Pryce visited the Bureau in the company of Embassy Administrative Officer Don Schoeb on 15 November. The visitors were given the deluxe tour and met a number of Bureau personnel. The ambassador had warm words for the FBIS product and commented favorably on the efficiency of the Bureau operation which he noted was larger than he had expected.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Bureau operated with severe copy backlogs for much of the month, due to a large volume of area reportage and comment on the coming visit by President Reagan, the continuing Nicaragua border conflict, escalated fighting in El Salvador, and expanded selection from Havana sources at AG request. Monitorial and teletype overtime was used extensively. It is noteworthy that the translation load was taken in stride despite a monitorial T/O two under strength, the absence of one monitor on TDY to Key West, and the presence of four monitors in training (and not yet up to operational production levels).

✓ 2. A purported new "clandestine" station widely reported by the San Salvador press and condemned by Radio Venceremos and its supporters, was determined by the Bureau to probably be a Salvadoran jamming technique directed at the two FMLN clandestines. Although the radio has been variously said to be named "Reorientacion," "Orientacion" or "Soberania," it has never been heard to identify itself. It carries programs repeated verbatim over a several-day period, and has been heard to transmit only on Venceremos frequencies when Venceremos is broadcasting.

3. The Bureau resumed scrutiny of the Colombian newspapers EL ESPECTADOR and EL TIEMPO for the period 20 November-8 December to cover the 30 November-4 December Reagan visit to Latin America. Costa Rican newspapers, not received since 1 October apparently due to a delay in renewing subscriptions, were again received beginning 17 November.

4. Continued Bureau efforts to gain rapid access to the Mexican newspapers EXCELSIOR, EL DIA and UNO MAS UNO were suspended for the time being when prices and lag times quoted through the Mexico City Embassy were judged to be excessive. Earlier in the month, an attempt to arrange courier delivery of the papers was also given up due to unresolvable problems of cost and complexity. The need for improved access to Mexican media was illustrated again during the month by the interest created in an interview with Mexican TV by Honduran Army chief Alvarez, whose remarks were quoted incompletely by monitored sources. The Bureau was unable to service a request from American Embassy Tegucigalpa for text of the interview. ✓

5. The Bureau's four remote circuits to Central America were interrupted for a 6-hour period on 15 November due to a multiplex problem in Panama City affecting all Central American microwave circuits. The Tegucigalpa circuit was frequently affected during the month by unscheduled city-wide power outages. The entire remote system was also put in more indirect danger by the threat of a 300-percent rate increase by Central American telecommunications authorities. The proposal, apparently initiated by the Nicaraguans, was defeated after massive protests by users and members of the common communications organization.

6. The Bureau arranged with the regional office of DPA to receive DPA's Latin America Spanish-language file via landline for a trial period. As of the end of the month, INTEL installation of the line was still awaited. At the request of Paraguay Bureau, which expressed interest in acquiring EFE for Southern Cone coverage, the Bureau discussed the existing contract with the local office, which said it considered that the contract applied only to FBIS Panama Bureau, and that any other bureau would have to negotiate its own contract. An extended weekend LATIN outage during the month, lasting from 1300 Saturday through mid-day Monday, illustrated a new and probably chronic problem with that agency, which has reduced its maintenance support to 8-to-5 weekdays and half a day on Saturdays. Outages after these times are not restored until the next workday.

B. Communications

In a classic display of the incompetence demonstrated by personnel of the local AUTODIN relay (PAR) for some time now, the Bureau was advised during the month that PAR equipment could not accommodate its new 150-baud Mode I circuit. After 18 months of written and verbal communications, numerous phone calls and several visits by PAR personnel to inspect the Bureau's Mode I equipment, PAR discovered it would have to purchase new equipment and go out of service for 48 hours to accommodate our request. It suggested instead that the Bureau delay installation of Mode I until PAR is phased out at the end of this year.

C. Lateral Services

Repeated expressions of interest by Embassy officials, who listen to the programs daily, led the Bureau to add to coverage three early-morning commentary programs carried by different Panamanian radio stations. Because present staffing does not permit coverage, the programs are recorded using the 30-channel Magnasync backstop recorder and retrieved and processed only at Embassy request.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Born to Administrative Assistant [redacted] on 15 November, a daughter, [redacted] weight 6 lb 15 oz. STAT
2. Editor [redacted] left for Headquarters 16 November after TDY training. STAT
3. Monitor Supervisor [redacted] returned 29 November from TDY at Key West Bureau. STAT
4. Former Monitor Supervisor [redacted] was presented the FBIS Career Medal by the Bureau Chief at a small luncheon ceremony. STAT
5. PSIs were received during the month by Monitor Supervisor [redacted] (NM-11/8 to NM-11/9), Electronics Technician [redacted] (NM-9/5 to NM-9/6) and Staff Secretary [redacted] (GS-5/2 to GS-5/3). STAT

B. Building and Grounds

1. Contractor [redacted] completed construction of a drainage system to remove rain water from the concrete protective enclosures around the fuel oil filler pipes and repaired cracks in the western outer wall of the operations building through which water had been leaking during heavy rain storms. STAT
2. Contractor [redacted] completed installation of panneling and vinyl floor covering in the kitchen and dining area. STAT

IV. VISITS

A. To the Bureau: New Embassy Political Counselor Ashley Hewitt on 5 November for briefing and tour; new Embassy Public Affairs Officer Sigfried Maitrejean, USIS Press Officer Jim Palmer and Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Paul Saxton on 8 November for briefing and tour; new SOUTH-COM Treaty Affairs Deputy Chief of Staff Col Jose Felix Gomez and Planning Officer Ltc Manny Fernandez on 18 November for briefing and tour.

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B From the Bureau: Deputy Chief [redacted] and Chief Technician [redacted] visited the International Conference on Banking Automation at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City 12 November to see a demonstration of Rapicom facsimile equipment; [redacted] and Chief Monitor [redacted] visited USIS 19 November for a tour and briefing.

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Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

CC: Paraguay Bureau
Key West Bureau

Attachment:
Monthly Production Report

JFH:ebw

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1982

I. TOTAL FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	424,260
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	12,270
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,231

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	7,735 min	40,830 min	134.23 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish	7,090
Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish	0
Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish	0

AUSTRIA

Vienna OPECNA in Spanish	680
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	6,720
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	3,990
Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	4,660
Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish	120
Bogota Radio Sutatenza in Spanish	180
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish	210
Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish	420

(CLANDESTINE)

Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	25,960
Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua	870
Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	6,800

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	16,150		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			3,280
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Spanish	54,330		
Havana PRELA in English		5,480	
ECUADOR			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	5,660		
Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish	1,340		
Quito Diplomatic Info. Service in Spanish		0	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish	2,750		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	5,010		
San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish	760		
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			4,200
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			2,890
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			560
San Salvador PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			6,350
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			1,890
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			870
San Salvador El Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			1,800
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		640	
Paris AFP in Spanish	17,910		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	1,950		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	3,850		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	810		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	4,870		
Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish			890
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			4,210
Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish			1,500
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	8,740		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	10,180		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	11,610		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	2,360		
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1,330
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			3,500
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			2,010
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			8,340
MEXICO			
Mexico City International Service in Spanish	4,240		
NICARAGUA			
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	32,370		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	5,230		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	6,890		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	12,420		
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			5,440
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			5,300

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			2,800
Managua PATRIA LIBRE in Spanish			4,130
PANAMA			
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	7,270		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	6,050		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	4,040		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		26,410	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			3,940
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			6,590
Panama City STAR & HERALD in English			590
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			8,630
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			5,030
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			7,510
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		12,080	
UNITED KINGDOM			
London REUTER in French		0	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish	500		
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	1,080		